

Serial No. 10/809,140
Chaouk et al.
Response to Office Action

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings of the claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

1. (presently amended) A method for forming a hydrogel string comprising the steps:
providing a delivery device having a gelation chamber;
providing a prepolymer composition that will form a hydrogel when brought into contact with a gelation initiator;
contacting the prepolymer with the gelation initiator in the gelation chamber so that it [form] forms a hydrogel in the gelation chamber; and
extruding the hydrogel from the delivery device as a hydrogel string.
2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the delivery device is a catheter.
3. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the delivery device is a multilumen catheter.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the delivery device is a catheter having at least two lumens and a gelation chamber at the distal end.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the catheter is a coaxial catheter having an inner catheter and an outer catheter and the method further comprises the step of step of sliding the inner catheter within the outer catheter to increase or decrease the length of the gelation chamber.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the prepolymer composition comprises at least two solutions that will form a hydrogel when combined in the gelation chamber.
7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the hydrogel is extruded as prepolymer composition is moved into the gelation chamber.
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the delivery device is a coaxial dual lumen catheter and the inner catheter is slidable within the outer catheter so that the degree of formation of the hydrogel string as it exits the gelation chamber can be altered as the inner catheter is slid towards the distal end of the gelation chamber.

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9. (previously presented) A hydrogel string formed by the method of claim 1.
10. (previously presented) A hydrogel string formed by the method of claim 5.
11. (previously presented) A hydrogel string formed by the method of claim 6.
12. (previously presented) A hydrogel string formed by the method of claim 8.